ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF MILITARY WORKS

OF THE

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

(GENERAL BRANCH),

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,

FOR THE YEAR

1891-92.

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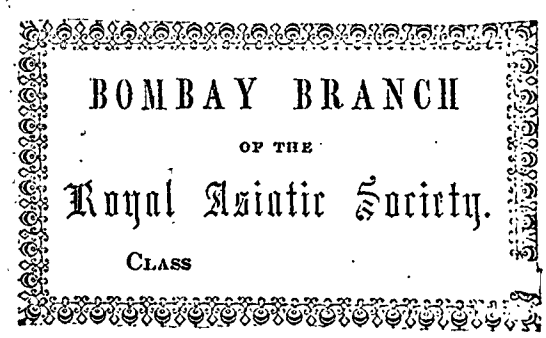
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

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FOR THE YEAR 1891-92.

MILITARY WORKS.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. The following stations remained under the control of the Bombay Public Works Department during the year:—

Poona District.

Ahmednagar.	Purandhar.
Sirúr.	Khandála.

Sátára.

Bombay District.

Málegaon.	Baroda.
Bhúj.	Surat.

Thána.

Deesa District.

Ahmedabad.	Rájkot.

2. In the Administration Report of 1890-91, reference was made to the loss to Provincial Revenues by the transfer of Military Works at the larger stations in this Presidency, to a separate agency under the Military Works Department, and the loss was estimated at Rs. 1,00,000. During the year under report, the matter received the further consideration of Government, and compensation was claimed from the Government of India, Imperial Revenues; but that Government have refused to entertain the claim in full, agreeing however, to share the loss, estimated at Rs. 70,000, in equal proportions. The grounds for the decision have not been considered equitable, as the loss is wholly one that this Government have suffered, and for which they should be compensated in full. As an agreement on the subject could not be come to, the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State for final orders, which are awaited.

3. The expenditure during the year in the stations still under the Public Works Department (including contributions and deducting Rs. 2,438 Suspense Account) amounted to Rs. 2,27,778, and the gross outlay to Rs. 2,30,216, of which Rs. 69,926 was for Original Works, Rs. 96,875 for Repairs, Rs. 39,930 for Establishment, Rs. 2,276 for Tools and Plant, and Rs. 21,209 for Barrack Department.

4. The works carried out during the year under each head were as follows:—

I.—ACCOMMODATION FOR TROOPS.

Buildings for European Troops in the Plains—Permanent.

5. The floors of the undermentioned rooms in the Section Hospital at Ahmednagar have been stone-paved, on a 6″ bed of concrete:—library, surgery, east, west, and south verandahs of the hospital, the two wards of the infectious diseases building, cook-room, and the verandah all round cook-room, privy, bath-room, and wash-room to the female hospital, hospital store-room, and dead-house, also ward and verandah in Section Hospital. The outlay has been Rs. 2,355. Ahmednagar.

BUILDINGS FOR EUROPEAN TROOPS IN THE HILLS—PERMANENT.

Purandhar. 6. The roofs of the Barracks Nos. 1 and 2 were in a bad state of repair, and required renewal; it was accordingly proposed to re-place the old double tiling by corrugated iron sheeting and single tiles. The roof of Barrack No. 1 was thus renewed; and materials for Barrack No. 2 were collected during the year. The improvements to the latter will be finished in 1892-93. The outlay has been Rs. 10,496, against the estimate of Rs. 15,525.

Khandála. 7. Special repairs to Barrack No. 2 at Khandála were completed during the year, at a total expenditure of Rs. 8,611, against the estimate of Rs. 8,735.

BUILDINGS FOR NATIVE TROOPS.

Bhúj. 8. A new Magazine for storing small arms ammunition was in progress. The whole of the masonry work was completed, and the building has now been practically finished. The outlay has been Rs. 7,359, against the estimate of Rs. 9,300.

Ahmednagar. 9. Stone paving to the floors of the Native Infantry Hospital at Nagar has been provided, at an outlay of Rs. 1,820.

Sátára. 10. A Quarter Master's store-room for the Native Infantry Regiment, which was reported to be in progress in the last report, was completed during the year, at a cost of Rs. 6,999, against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 7,058.

11. As there were no permanent latrines for the use of the Native Infantry Regiment, ten blocks were constructed during the year (eight for men and two for women) in accordance with the standard design of latrines for natives. The outlay amounted to Rs. 3,196, against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 3,682.

5.—STUD.

Ahmednagar. 12. The works of re-roofing stables Nos. 131 and 132, and re-building the pillars of the old Cavalry Lines, for the Army Remount Department, mentioned in the last report, have been completed during the year, at a total expenditure of Rs. 7,778.

7.—GENERAL CANTONMENT WORKS—WATER-SUPPLY.

Kirkee 13. The works at the Páshán Tank, as well as the pipes, cisterns, &c., for the water-supply of Kirkee, were maintained in an efficient state, at a total cost of Rs. 2,197, and Rs. 3,096 have been expended in completing the water-supply to the Native Troops at Kirkee (New Jhánsi). Rs. 147 have been expended in constructing a 5-feet culvert over the Mutha Left Bank Canal. A sum of Rs. 1,245 was expended on erecting hydrants and fire-plugs at Ghorpuri, Wánowri and Kirkee.

Ahmednagar. 14. Two of the three wells, proposed to be sunk for testing the proposed supply of water for the City and Cantonment, were excavated to hard soil, the water was pumped out, and the wells were again allowed to re-fill, when samples of the water were sent for testing to the Chemical Analyser. The outlay amounted to Rs. 691.

Sátára. 15. Early in the year a project to supply water to the Barracks and Cantonment, to be drawn from the Kás system, was sanctioned, at an estimated cost of Rs. 51,970. The project, mentioned in last year's report, comprises the following works, viz. :—

(1) an inlet chamber at the head of the camp main, measuring 10′ × 10′ by 6 feet deep, wherein the main conduit of the Kás system will be tapped, and water drawn off for the camp service;

(2) laying cast iron pipes, 4″ diameter, from the inlet chamber to the service reservoirs, a distance of about 9,725 feet;

(3) settling tanks, consisting of 3 chambers, each 48′ × 38′ by 12′ deep, and having a capacity between outlet and overflow of slightly over 100,000 gallons, or equal to one day's supply;

(4) filter beds, consisting of two chambers, 46′ × 28′, capable of filtering 100,000 gallons in 24 hours, at the rate of 1 square yard per 700 gallons;

(5) a service reservoir, suitably situated with respect to settling ponds and filter beds, to admit the free flow of water by gravitation.

consisting of a masonry chamber, 60′ × 30′ × 11′, having a capacity between inlet and outlet of 102,000 gallons, which is slightly in excess of one day's demand; the chamber to be roofed with corrugated iron sheets;

(6) laying distribution pipes of 4″, 3″ and 2″, of total lengths of 700 feet, 8,030 feet, and 11,655 feet, respectively;

(7) providing reducing pressure chamber at three selected places, to reduce the pressure in the service pipes;

(8) land compensation.

16. Of the works, Nos. 3 and 4 were reserved for future construction. An allotment of Rs. 36,500 was granted during the year for expenditure on the other works. The necessary cast iron pipes and connections were ordered from England, and arrived by the middle of February 1892. After the end of the monsoon, the work of constructing the service reservoir, and laying 4″ cast iron pipes from the Kas main to the service reservoir, was taken in hand, and nearly completed by the end of the year. The total outlay amounted to Rs. 24,214.

17. A revised estimate for the project is in course of preparation, as the distributing pipes are, in some cases, of too small a diameter to yield the required discharge at a sufficiently rapid rate.

VIII.—Fortifications.

Ahmedabad.

18. The work of improving the fortified post at Ahmedabad consisted of adding loop-holed walls around the bases of the flanking bastions, entrance to which is afforded by two flights of steps. The ramps and *terre'plein* of the bastions were also metalled. The work is virtually completed, the total expenditure being Rs. 6,428, out of the estimated cost of Rs. 7,524.

Purandhar.

19. There were in all 12 portions of the upper scarp of the Purandhar Fort which were considered to be in a dangerous condition. It was considered necessary to remove 7 of these altogether, and to build up the other 5 by strong masonry buttresses. The work was in hand during the year, and will be completed by the end of 1892-93. The expenditure has been Rs. 1,992, against the estimate of Rs. 4,363.

Sátára.

20. During the year under report certain further works in connection with the improvements to the Hill Fort at Sátára were carried out, *viz.*:—providing new loop-holed screen walls at selected sites on the west and south ends of the Fort; gun emplacements; constructing a dry stone wall, 2′ high, 2′ thick, all around the Fort, connecting the screen walls and emplacements; converting disused magazine into a shell store, by making certain additions; well No. 9, near the Dudh Talao, was provided with corrugated iron roof covering; and, to permit of free communication between the different emplacements, roads, 10′ wide, with side gutters, were made, of a total length of 3,457 feet. The expenditure on these works amounted to Rs. 4,545, against the estimate of Rs. 4,541; and the total expenditure on the Hill Fort works to end of the year to Rs. 32,895.

21. At other stations no new works of any importance were carried out, and the operations were confined to minor works, and the repairs of the existing buildings

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